Bill and Gayle Newman, JFK assassination witnesses 3/9/92
Nigel Turner and how those with preconceptions twist evidence

Bill is a small electrical contractor in Mesquite, near Dallas, He and his wife were in Washington on city council business. I think he is a member of the council. When he knew they'd be in Washington he phoned to ask if they might come up. I invited them. He wanted to talk to me, he said, after hearing what I said on TV, esp. the Nigel Turner shows aired on A & E cable.

They consider themselves conservatives. They wanted to see JFK so they drove to the airport, where only Bill and one of their then two small boys did see him. So, knowing the motorcade route from the papers, Bill drove to Dealey Plaza. He parked behind the Purse building, next to the Dal-Tex building. They then walked to Elm Street and continued walking along the north curb until they were the spectators fartherest west, on the curb, where their view would be unobstructed. By the time they were standing there they could hear the reaction to the motorcade. Bill thought the first two shots, close together in his recollection, were firecrackers. They saw the impact of the third shot so Bill ordered them onto the ground and he and Gayle held the children down. News photos show this. Bill's recollection of the third shot is that it came from behind him. He is positive on this.

When Nigel Turner was working on his show, meaning the first one that he expanded into the five-part series, he kept saying he needed to refilm Bill, with whom he had established a friendly relationship. He wanted Bill to say that the shot came from behind the picket fence but Bill, not knowing that it did, would say only that it came from behind him. So, each time Turner taped him, with Bill standing where he said he had been, Nigel kept moving the camera to the east so that the picket fence would be behind Bill and thus it would appear that Bill was saying that the shot from "behind" was from behind the picket fence. Not recalling how he was facing Bill would not say that the shot was from behind the picket fence but by keeping repaping and moving the camera farthur east Turner made it appear that Bill was saying that the shot came from the west, behind the fence. In the end he understood what Turner had done and had distorted what Bill said into what he would not say but Turner wanted to have him saying anyway.

They were delayed readhing here because they were given instructions other than I gave Bill. Lil was busy on tax work, had not prepared for lunch guests, so I took them to the oriental restaurant of friends of ours, Hana's, Lil returned to her work and at luch the three of us continued talking. They enjoyed the Korean dishes I recommended, took a copy of the menu with them so that they'd know what dishes they liked if they could ever again get Korean food, and Bill insisted on taking the check. They are friendly, pleasant people. Bill asked me to autograph a book. When he read he recognized the quote from Frost's poem I used ~~and~~ he told he his favorite Frost poem, the name of which I've forgotten ("On the Trail?"). But I was surprised that he knew and liked Frost's poetry. Gayle is going to send me a print of a newsphoto of them on the ground after the shots were fired.